

WASHINGTON STATE RAINBOW COALITION ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

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**BOB BARNES OF WASHINGTON STATE RAINBOW COALITION, SHIP SCALERS LOCAL 541**

**INTERVIEWEE:** BOB BARNES

**INTERVIEWER:** SAUL GONZALEZ

**SUBJECTS:** WASHINGTON STATE RAINBOW COALITION, NATIONAL RAINBOW COALITION, JESSE JACKSON, CHARLES ROLLAND, ANTI-WAR MOVEMENT, VIETNAM WAR, IMOGENE BOWEN, LARRY GOSSETT, ROBERTO MAESTAS, SAM MCKINNEY, INSIDE-OUTSIDE STRATEGY, DEMOCRATIC PARTY, MIKE LOWRY, FARMWORKERS

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SAUL 00:00:12

Okay, so what is your name, and can you spell it out?

BOB 00:00:17

Yeah, my name is Bob Barnes. It's B-O-B B-A-R-N-E-S.

SAUL 00:00:25

And how old are you? What is your birthday?

BOB 00:00:29

I am 78 and my birthday is January 30, 1946.

SAUL 00:00:38

All right, and then what gender, if any, do you identify with, and what are your pronouns?

BOB 00:00:45

He/they, bisexual.

SAUL 00:00:49

Awesome, and what race or ethnicity do you identify as?

BOB 00:00:54

Not white. I haven't found an appropriate term, though. I don't like Caucasian, but I don't like white, but, you know, that's as close as I'll get.

SAUL 00:01:10

All right. So what was your life story prior to joining the Rainbow Coalition? Did you grow up in Washington state, or did you move here and things like that.

BOB 00:01:21

I was born in a little town called Long Prairie in Minnesota, moved to Colorado when I was six, lived a couple years in Denver, and then four or five years in Boulder, then we moved to Paris, Texas, where I went to high school and then college in a nearby town. Then I joined the Army in 1968 foolishly, in retrospect, put two years in, spending most of that time trying to get out because they wanted me to go to Vietnam, and I was not planning on going to Vietnam, one part of my plan.

On my third set of orders to Vietnam, they shipped me out here [to Washington] to Fort Lewis on my way to Vietnam, and I fell in love with this place. I'd filed as a conscientious objector. I was never officially recognized as one, but they could not ship me to a war zone while the application was pending, so I basically ran the clock and was discharged in the spring of 1970. By that time, I had really--this was home. Seattle was home by that point, so I went back to Paris, gathered up my belongings, and we relocated out here, and I've been here since.

SAUL 00:02:44

Awesome. Were you involved in electoral politics prior to the Jesse Jackson campaign?

BOB 00:02:50

Not so much. I was peripheral. I did some mailing for Eugene McCarthy and but mostly my political activity was more direct action and more international solidarity through the--well, in the 70's, it was anti-Vietnam War and pro-Vietnam and... Yeah, into the end of the time after that there was South Africa support, Central America support, both Nicaragua and El Salvador. So not so much electoral politics. I mean, I would, you know, I wasn't opposed to it, but it just was not my world.

SAUL 00:03:50

Okay. And when did you join the Rainbow Coalition? And what was the Rainbow doing at the time that made you want to join?

BOB 00:04:02

Well, it was pre-Rainbow, actually, it was during the first Jackson campaign. And I was in the--Jesse's platform really matched mine, not that I had a platform. But what he stood for is the things that I'd been standing for and

fighting for for awhile, and the thought of of having somebody on the national scene that really represented a real progressive agenda intrigued me. I was involved with the labor movement at the time, and we formed a Labor for Jackson committee locally, and got to know the players: Ellie Menzies and Charles Rolland, you may have heard those names in the history. And you know, I have not found the documents in my archives that tell me just when in that path the Rainbow Coalition actually formed, but it was not right then. But I have one very clear memory of being at the Democratic Party convention down in Olympia and discovering people from all over the state that were Jackson supporters.

And I think--I'm not sure if the if the national Rainbow was on the scene yet or not, folks with better memories can fill that blank in. But we knew at that point that there was some national--there was some statewide thing that needed to happen, you know? And whenever it happened, I know I was involved from the beginning. I was one of the founding members of Rainbow. We had our founding convention down at the Evergreen State College. And it was quite the deal. And we had governors and legislatures come speak to us, so we were on the radar from the very beginning. I mean, Jackson had put us all on the agenda, so that made that easy, you know.

And then we formed either district or county chapters, and I was co chair of the Martin Luther King County Chapter. We weren't the Martin Luther King County at that point. We were in the Rufus somebody, slave owner King County. We changed that. From the beginning I was involved with the Rainbow, yeah.

SAUL 00:06:54

And apart from being a founding member, what role did you play in the Washington State Rainbow Coalition, and what were the activities while you were involved?

BOB 00:07:02

I know we were involved in anti-war stuff. By this point it was the Gulf War. We were--the Rainbow was a pretty viable part of a pretty big anti-war coalition here in town [Seattle] that worked for for quite awhile. I know there were people who we got elected or tried to get elected, I couldn't think--well, there were, let's see: Bob Hasegawa, Velma Veloria, Jesse Wineberry were state reps. We supported some, in retrospect, maybe some dubious folks like Patty Murray and Mike Lowry for governor. Mike was actually a stalwart from long before he was governor, you know, so he was our guy. There was sort of falling out that happened toward the end that we can get to chronologically, but he was accused of some sexual harassment, and we felt obligated to look into it.

Oh, one of the big campaigns was--I don't know if you heard of a guy named Brock Adams. He was a US senator, and he had this thing about drugging women and it started coming out in a big way. And the Rainbow and the National Organization of Women, I would say, were the critical players in bringing him down. We were just not going to allow this pedophile, this whatever he was to remain in office. It just wasn't going to happen.

And it was not too long after that, I'd say probably within a year, that this stuff with Mike Lowry came out, and we just felt like we had to do something. So we launched an investigation. We used the same person that had conducted an independent investigation, and they cleared him. She was Mary Alice Theiler, who's now a federal judge, she was part of the Rainbow, she conducted the investigation. But Mike never really forgave us for even challenging him, which was sad, because, you know, we we knew two things: we knew we had to do this investigation, and we knew how it was going to turn out, it was going to clear him. But yeah, I think every time I saw him after that, he would bring it up, which was a bummer, and then he died. Alright, that was a little jumping around, sorry.

SAUL 00:10:16

No, you're good. So how was the Washington State Rainbow Coalition structured? Can you talk a little about how decisions were made, or new members or new chapters form?

BOB 00:10:28

Well, we were a state organization. We had--I think every county in the state had a chapter. Some of them were bigger than others, King County was--well, I'd say King County, Pierce County, Whatcom County were the biggest chapters. We had a state Steering Committee, which was made up of elected delegates from the various chapters. And then there were state officers. I think there might have been co-chairs, and whoever that you know, treasurer, secretary, you know, the primary officers who would make decisions between meetings, and the steering committee met regularly in various parts of the state. We always tried to go to different chapters every time, just so we were respecting each of the chapters. And that's where policy got made and decisions got made, and officers were elected, you know. So it was a pretty democratic organization, because there was accountability at all levels, from the top to bottom. It wasn't like a pretend kind of a thing.

SAUL 00:11:46

All right. And what communities did the Rainbow organize in, such as, like the demographic--oh, and also the demographics of the Washington State Rainbow. And how did the Rainbow approach race, gender, and sexuality, and how does that impact the organizing of the Rainbow?

BOB 00:12:03

Well, we were an anti-racist, anti-sexist, anti-misogynist, pro-LGBTQ, anti-war. We did a lot of support work in the farmworkers community. Actually, that was another campaign that we were pretty critically involved in, both east of the [Cascade] mountains and over here, the Rainbow was an important player in the Chateau Ste. Michelle winery campaign, where the United Farm Workers ultimately got a contract. And there was a lot of drama in that, but we were pretty staunch supporters of the farmworkers. So I'd say, you know, that that's where we did our work. So that's where we placed ourselves, so those were the communities we were known in, you know.

We were also, you know, we were viewed in some circles and by some people as the conscience of the Democratic Party, or the junior partners in the Democratic Party, so we played in that arena. I'd say, for a few years running the state Democratic Party chapter, the party, their platform was the Rainbow platform. We had folks that did a lot of work on platform stuff, and then we organized within the various chapters, and we took our positions to the state and, you know, we were able to influence, influence at least in words, at least the words of the party. And at the national level too, I mean, we had delegates, Jackson delegates, and then Democratic Party delegates who had to carry the Jackson message to the national party and had an impact. I mean, not just the state Rainbow, because it was a national organization, right? We had people in from around the country, so we were able to impact the words of the national Democratic Party. I won't say we impacted, actually, the policy that much.

SAUL 00:14:33

Give me a second. Oh, never mind. They just turned on randomly. Okay, yeah, what would you consider to be some of the coalition achievements? And do you think that nationally and in Washington state, Rainbow had a long term impact on yourself and on electoral politics?

BOB 00:15:07

I have not been much involved in electoral politics since then. I mean the impact--the Rainbow ended basically because we got squished by the Democratic Leadership Council of the Democratic Party. Bill Clinton did not want to see a progressive wing of the party, and they iced us out of a whole lot of stuff. Charles Rolland, who

was one of the founders of the Rainbow, was the state Democratic Party chair at the time. I mean that's kind of how deep our reach was in the state and the party. You know, we had Rainbow folks right up to the top. I don't remember the date, but it was right toward the end of the Rainbow, and there were other things that were going on too, but Charles was--there was a big party meeting at the Westin, Clinton was there, and a bunch of other people, and Charles was summarily removed as chair of the party. And it was just, you know--a number of us quit the party at that point, just like, look, all this work is just--you guys just, just demolished everything we've been doing, you know.

And I mean, some of us--I'm going to digress a little bit here, maybe. There were what I characterized as three wings of the Rainbow: There was the there was the wing that did see us as the conscience of the Democratic Party, and de facto a junior member of the party, but strategically in the party. There were folks that saw being part of the Democratic Party as a tactical decision to form links with people, identify progressives within the party, and ultimately start building a new party that really would represent people. And then there was another wing that couldn't give a shit less about electoral politics. They were all about direct action and just being in the street. And those three wings worked pretty well together for awhile. You know, we were able to have it like an inside-outside strategy. We understood, this is my role, that's your role, we're not going to argue about whether my role is better than your role or not, until it didn't work. [laughs]

Yeah, so I'm not sure why I engaged in that digression, there was a reason I did that. I can't remember what it was. I'll finish that story just because it ties in with the demise of the rainbow, it's when the contradictions became to the point where just it was not working. This actually, I think, ties into a question you had at some point about what the impact of Imogene Bowen leaving was.

Two things happened pretty much at the same time: the investigation of Mike Lowry, and a resolution that was put forth to the state chapter calling for a task force to investigate the possibility of forming an independent party, worded quite that way so we weren't calling for the formation of an independent party, but we wanted to put it on the agenda. That caused the folks whose alliance to the Democratic Party was strategic to basically say, "This is it, we can't deal with this anymore. You're attacking the Democratic Party, you're attacking our governor." And it pretty much split the coalition.

We limped along for a little while. Some of the chapters just faded. The King County Chapter sort of faded, I mean, I'm not sure we ever had a like ending meeting where we put it to bed. There were a couple chapters that stayed, I think maybe Whatcom still has a Rainbow Coalition. I think maybe--where is Olympia? That's not Pierce County, whatever Olympia is in [Thurston], I think they might have a Rainbow chapter. I mean, they're not tied in with Rainbow/PUSH [People United to Save Humanity] or with the national, they're independent and just use the name, you know. But the state rainbow pretty much just sputtered to an end, it was kind of sad, yeah. Okay, put me back on track. [laughs]

SAUL 00:20:37

Yeah, we're definitely going to talk about that. So in your opinion, what are some of the achievements then? I think you already covered a bit of that, though.

BOB 00:20:49

Yeah, I mean, I think getting progressives elected, working on some successful campaigns, particularly with the farmworkers, Initiative 200, I-200. Some of our work was making sure bad legislation didn't get passed out of Olympia. And the only--I know, there were several, the one that I remember right off the top of my head was there was some legislation put forth to allow farmworker encampments to be tents, sort of tent villages, rather

than permanent structures with running water and real floors and heat. The tents wouldn't be okay, which is fine. And it wasn't a slam dunk, it could have passed, but we were able to lobby enough folks to keep it from passing.

And I know there were... some might pop into my head. I know there were other instances where we were more lobbying against something than for something, and were successful in making sure whatever it was didn't happen, right? I think just that because we were a viable force, we were able to work in coalition in a number of arenas, and just, you know, break some silos down, have a bigger coalition than we might have had if it was just us going alone, and you going alone, she going alone, you know. Because we were, at the peak, the Rainbow was a real coalition. I mean, it wasn't like just individuals were members. I mean, there were a lot of individuals, but officially, the Rainbow was a coalition of organizations, like I represented my union, Ship Scalpers local 541, and then I represented Jobs With Justice. So we, you know, particularly like the the elected delegates were representative of organizations they came from. Check! [laughs]

SAUL 00:23:38

Okay. So my next question is, what challenges, if any, did the Washington State Rainbow Coalition face? And then maybe we could just start with talking about how you thought there were three different wings and maybe the challenges that first faced, and if that has anything to do with the National Rainbow Coalition restructuring in like 1989 and, yeah, possibly with like other orgs like El Centro de la Raza? I don't know, I'll mute now.

BOB 00:24:17

Say that first part again? I'm sorry.

SAUL 00:24:20

Yeah, so what challenges, if any, did the Washington State Rainbow Coalition face? And something about the three different wings that you mentioned?

BOB 00:24:33

Well, you know, a challenge we faced is we were up against the the mightiest imperial country in the history of the world, and they didn't like what we were about. So, you know, there was that. And I think, you know, insofar as the Democratic Party represents that system, we were a challenge to that system. We were not explicitly socialist, for instance, but we, you know, I mean, you look at what we stood for. It was not continuing and growing capitalism, that was not part of the plan. So yeah, being that level of an opposition force was challenging.

It was also challenging with the National Rainbow, because, you probably picked up from talking to other folks that we were never really accepted by Jesse, by the Reverend, because we were very explicitly and very adamantly a democratic organization that was not just going to be top-down, taking our orders from from Jesse or from his appointees.

And when we... okay, this is going backward. Maybe you've heard this story, too, about our founding convention. We had a slate of candidates for the co-chairs and the officers, and Reverend Jackson told us that these two other people, Reverend Sam McKinney and Roberto Maestas from from El Centro, were going to be our co chairs and we said, "Well, maybe, but we're going to have an election down here in Olympia? And those delegates who were democratically elected from their chapters are going to make the decision on who our officers are." And there had been much controversy with Maestas and El Centro at the time, and Maestas did not win. Reverend McKinney did win. And I think Imogene, I think she was our other State co-chair at the time. I can be wrong about that, but I think she might have been.

And Jesse was not happy, and he called a general meeting of the Rainbow, which ended up being a room down at McKinney's church up on Capitol Hill. I should know the name it [Mount Zion Baptist Church]--huge church filled with people. I mean, it was basically "Come see Jesse." It wasn't a Rainbow Coalition meeting at all, it was a "come see Jesse." And Jesse lectured us and told us how out of pocket we were, and told us, ordered us to call an emergency meeting of the state steering committee and revote for the officers. "Okay, we'll do that." We did and Roberto didn't win again. And it was very close, it was, I don't know--have you interviewed Larry Gossett, or are you going to? Yeah, I mean, Larry, he might not tell you the story the same way, but he was, he was chairing the meeting, and usually the chair doesn't vote unless it's a tie. It was a tie vote, and Larry had to make the decision, and I know that was very tough for him, because he and Maestas were friends, but he was also very strong proponent of democratically run organizations. So he cast the final vote, and we had to tell Jesse that this is how it came down.

And there was tension throughout, throughout the rest of the time. We had strained relations with the national and... It was too bad. But on one level, we didn't, I won't say, didn't care, but you know, we had our own work to do that had its own logic here in Washington State. And, you know, we would be as fraternal as we could when Jesse would come to town. We'd build his, you know, we'd build the event, whatever, but it was a strained relationship. So that was definitely one of the challenges that we faced here in the state. And not sure what else to say right now, you might want to prompt me.

SAUL 00:29:58

Alright. Actually, what was your understanding of the Washington State Rainbow Coalition's mission, and how did it coincide or not coincide with the National Rainbow Coalition? And also, the National Rainbow had a strategy of inside-outside. What did that mean to you, and what did you think?

BOB 00:30:19

Well yeah, I mean, I think policy wise, we were in sync. I mean, there was nothing that--I mean, we had to--not just we, but nationally, we had to push Jesse a little bit on the abortion issue. He came around. Same thing with the gay question, which that's what we called it back then, the gay question. And and he came around.

Did I lose you there? Nope, there you are! Wow, that was fun. Oh shoot, I lost my train of thought. Say that question again, bring me back.

SAUL 00:31:05

Oh yeah, the understanding of the Washington State mission and the National Rainbow mission, strategy of inside-outside, and what did that mean? And what did you think of that strategy?

BOB 00:31:17

Oh, right, right. Okay, yeah, yeah. I mean our mission--well, sort of mission, there's probably a mission statement--the mission was not different from the national whatever it was. I mean, we're fighting for a better world, and we had a very comprehensive platform that was about peace and justice and civil rights, human rights.

The inside-outside strategy, I thought and do think, is a great idea. It's it's tough, because a lot of the inside people are there strategically, a lot of the outside people are there strategically. And it's easy to criticize, to get into the "my way is the best way." But we did a damn good job of it. And part of the outside strategy was the folks that couldn't give a shit about electoral politics at all. I mean, that's where our street heat came from. That's more where I lived and live, and I still, I mean, I have even without the Rainbow, I have comrades who are very close to the Democratic Party, and work that arena. You know, they'll go and they'll meet with Adam Smith, and

they'll meet with Patty Murray, and they'll try and get progressive folks elected. And that's cool, and I might help a little bit here and there, it's just not where I put my energy. But the fact that we could do those things and then get together in the same room and say, "We did these things, and this helped over here, and this helped over here," was great.

We were able to pull a strategic overview of that, and everybody understood that we're not going to move politicians without street heat. It's just not going to happen, with very, very few exceptions. We don't have to do that with Pramila Jayapal, for instance, but now, she is a very rare exception, you know. And she actually sometimes misses that we don't come give her a bad time. It's like, for what? [laughs] So yeah, I mean, I think we modeled a really effective strategy, and it's just unfortunate that things blew up the way they did. And it really was, I think, an unwillingness to continue to carry out the strategy of the inside-outside, yeah.

SAUL 00:34:11

Okay, can you talk a little bit more about the Washington State Rainbow Coalition and the National Rainbow Coalition and what a plan for the process to be a state chapter was like, and also just like the difficulties with the process and the organization?

BOB 00:34:35

Yeah, I wasn't directly involved in that, so I can't really speak to it. I know, in fact, I think I've heard varying reports about whether we actually had a chapter. I didn't think we were ever granted chaptership, I could be wrong. I know that from the beginning there was that tension about, you know, we're not compliant with the Reverend. And I know there were repeated efforts made to to join as a chapter of the of the national, but I can't be a much help there with that story. Rick Harwood might, have you talked to Rick? He hopefully gave you a little more insight on that.

SAUL 00:35:27

Also, just like a clarifying question when you talk about the beginning, is this like around the first campaign of Jesse Jackson in '84, or is it after the second in 1988, 1989?

BOB 00:35:43

We started working in '84. That's when I was with Labor for Jackson. So it was about the campaign, you know. And we didn't form into an organization till after that.

SAUL 00:36:11

All right. And then, so what impact did president Imogene Bowen, resigning in 1995 have on the organization?

BOB 00:36:24

I think it was--and it wasn't just her, it was like, things were going on--but I think her resigning and other people resigning basically was the beginning of the end for the Rainbow. I mean, it was clear that the strategic alliance we had with our inside-outside work was not working.

We were also--at that period, it's harder to keep an organization like that going when you don't have a candidate at the forefront. Like, Jesse was the reason, you know, even though he wasn't, and we were very clear that he wasn't. He really was. I mean, there's how us insiders think, and how there's the rank and file human beings out there think, you know. And when there's no exciting campaign going on, people aren't as easily activated. So we were losing members, you know, we were not as viable as we had been during the peak of the elections. So that was going on at the same time.



And it just--we lost our juice, you know, because the folks that were closest into the inside strategy weren't working with us and the rest of us were like, "Well, okay, we can be part of some other organization if we're just going to do street heat." So yeah, I'd say her leaving was--and I'm in no way blaming her--but I think that that happened then that was that was a real indicator of the Rainbow in decline.

SAUL 00:38:35

Can you talk a little bit about like other things that happened during that time that also impacted the decline?

BOB 00:38:47

Well, there was the Lowry thing I mentioned earlier. [pauses]

SAUL 00:38:59

Could you expand on that?

BOB 00:39:03

Well, it, I mean, it tied in with the "Are we strategic allies with the Democratic Party, or are we co equals? Does the rainbow stand as an independent organization?" And when some of us felt like we had to investigate Lowry, that was you don't do that to your own. I mean, it had to get pretty egregious. I mean, even with Brock Adams, you know, that took a little while. It's like, it took a lot of evidence to really get people on board that we had an issue here that we had to deal with, which wasn't there with Mike, which we knew. But the mere fact that we were going to take one of our heroes, and Mike was one of our heroes. To take him on was unconscionable and irreparable.

And that, I mean, the Mike thing and the investigating the possibility of forming an independent party thing literally came up at the same meeting. And it was, I think Imogene quit right after that. And it was clear to me at that time that the wing of the strategic alliance with the Democratic Party was the dominant wing. And it was also a critical wing. I mean, without it, the Rainbow wasn't the Rainbow. And even though we tried to limp along for a little while, it just wasn't viable. Did that help? Did that make sense? [laughs]

SAUL 00:41:22

Yeah, could you talk a little bit about what it meant to be an independent party?

BOB 00:41:33

You have your own platform, your own program, your own elected officers, your own operating wing operating. You're not beholden to another entity. You're not a junior party of the Democratic Party. You might work in alliance with them, but it's a tactical alliance, it's not a strategic alliance. And you compete for power. I mean, that's really the bottom line is for that to work, it has to be credible, viable, and big enough where you are competing for power. And, you know, we have not achieved that in this country. Hadn't then, haven't yet.

SAUL 00:42:32

So did you decide to leave the organization, and why?

BOB 00:42:38

The organization just sort of collapsed. I mean, there was literally no--I think there was an acknowledgement that we're, you know--we'd have our monthly meetings, and fewer and fewer people would show up. We just stopped having meetings. It was kind of pathetic in retrospect. It was I don't think so much demoralizing as is it was a blow. I mean, to have this organization that had been really important and had done some really good work, and we'd built some really good ties with people around the country and for sure around the state, you

know, and to not have that family, you know, in some ways, we were family. I mean, there are a bunch of us that still hang out. I mean, some of my best friends come from the strategic alliance with the Democratic Party wing of things, and I don't. And we're still best buds. So there's a lot of that kind of thing, you know, organizations come and go, bonds hopefully transcend that and move on to building something bigger and better the next time. But it was hard. It was hard at the time.

And I should have said this at the very beginning: a lot of this stuff is a long time ago, and my memory is not... some of it's a little drifty,

SAUL 00:44:28

That's okay. So in your opinion, what led to the demise of the Washington State Rainbow Coalition?

BOB 00:44:39

Well, I think it was the contradictions of those different wings coming to the fore and becoming incompatible. It was that, pretty much that, that was it. What we were able to put together in a pretty strategic way no longer was. And that, you know, that impacted the viability of the organization. I don't have anything more profound to say about it than that.

SAUL 00:45:16

All right, what would you consider to be some of the organization's legacies?

BOB 00:45:26

I think having an independent--and we were independent--having an independent organization that can engage in a way that can impact policy. You don't have to be part of the dominant paradigm. You can be enough into it that you're going to impact it, but you don't have to be absorbed by it. And during the time that we were that, I think we were effective, I think we attracted folks. How you do that without a candidate at the forefront is still a challenge that we haven't answered, because I still think in theory that you shouldn't have to have that, but history seems to not bear that out.

And I think the ties, you know, the working relationships that were formed are still there in some cases. I mean, we're also talking about something that was a few years ago, and not all of us are even around anymore, you know. And none of the Rainbow stalwarts from back then are young anymore, you know, 60's probably young. I mean, my kids remember going to meetings that I would drag them to, but it's not like they were really a part of it. [laughs]

One other thing: if you have children, don't name them after living heroes. My son's name is Jesse, and he may have a complex because overhearing so many conversations where we're just bad mouthing Jesse. "God damnit, Jesse!" [laughs] Actually, he got over it, but don't do that, don't name your kids after live heroes. I do have a great picture of the Reverend with my baby Jesse in his arms, so I got that out of it. [laughs]

SAUL 00:47:50

Aww. Okay. And then, what lessons did you learn in the Rainbow Coalition that you think can be valuable for today?

BOB 00:47:59

I think finding a way to be strategic with the inside-outside strategy is something that we need to carry with us. And we have that legacy. We can say, "We did that," and we have some track record to look at. I think having an organization that is centered by and led by people of color is something to uphold and say that's a cool thing,

that's how we should do this. I think being resolute in what you believe in, and standing firm and not compromising when you don't have to. Sometimes you gotta compromise, but being strategic about how you make compromises, we did a pretty good job of that, and I think that's something that we that we should carry forward. And there's probably more, but nothing's coming out right now.

SAUL 00:48:10

Alright, well, is there anything in this interview that you wanted to talk about that you didn't get the chance to discuss?

BOB 00:49:41

I don't think so. We kind of walked around things a little bit and got back to it. But I think we got there. I mean, if you're feeling like we covered the ground you wanted to cover, I'm happy.

SAUL 00:49:56

Okay, I'm gonna go ahead and stop recording, then.

BOB 00:49:58

Okay.